

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MAPUTO NIACT IMMEDIATE
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TAGS: PDEV, RHUK

SUBJECT:REUTER STORY ON US/UK SPLIT

1. REUTER HAS CARRIED STORY DATELINED LUSAKA, WHICH WILL PROBABLY SOON BE PICKED UP BY OTHER WIRE SERVICES, OF SHARP DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN BRITISH AND AMERICANS OVER RHODESIA. DICK MOOSE HAS WRITTEN PERSONAL LETTER TO OWEN ON THE MATTER. FOR YOUR USE WE ARE PROVIDING HERewith THE PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED IN THE DEPARTMENT ON THE SUBJECT, AS WELL AS THE TEXT OF THE STORY ITSELF.

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2. BEGIN PRESS GUIDANCE:

Q: THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF SHARP ANGLO-AMERICAN AND BRITISH-AMERICAN DISAGREEMENT OVER HOW TO PURSUE THE RHO-DESIAN SETTLEMENT. ARE THESE TRUE?

A: WE AND THE BRITISH ARE WORKING CLOSELY AND HARMONIOUSLY TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE A GENUINE TRANSFER OF POWER IN RHODESIA AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. WE CONTINUE TO BE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND WILL NOT COMMENT ON THE CONTENTS OF OUR EXCHANGES WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF REUTER STORY:

BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES ARE TRYING TO RECONCILE SHARP DIFFERENCES OVER THEIR JOINT RHODESIA POLICY WHICH HAVE FORCED A TOP US ENVOY TO CANCEL A NEW WESTERN INITIATIVE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID TODAY.

THE DISPUTE REVOLVES AROUND THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT SIGNED IN SALISBURY TODAY AND OFFERING RHODESIA'S 6.5 MILLION AFRICANS A QUALIFIED BLACK RULE IN RETURN FOR CONTINUED WHITE INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL AND MILITARY PROCESSES.

THE ROW WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT BEARING ON THE CREDIBILITY OF ANY FUTURE WESTERN PEACE OVERTURES TO RHODESIA'S PATRIOTIC FRONT GUERRILLAS, WHO ARE FIGHTING A WIDENING BUSH WAR AGAINST WHITE RULE. THEIR LEADERS MR. ROBERT MUGABE AND MR JOSHUA NKOMO, WERE EXPECTED TO MEET IN MAPUTO TODAY TO CHART THEIR STRATEGY TOWARDS THE INTERNAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHITES AND MODERATE BLACKS, IN WHICH THEY DID NOT PARTICPATE.

ACCORDING TO THE DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, THE ANGLO-AMERICAN ROW ERUPTED IN LONDON EARLIER THIS MONTH WHEN US ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE RICHARD MOOSE MET BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN.

MR. MOOSE TOLD AIDES LATER THAT THE BRITISH MINISTER APPEARED TO BE ON THE POINT OF ABANDONING ANGLO-AMERICAN PEACE PROPOSALS FOR RHODESIA AND SUPPORTING THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT, THE SOURCES SAID.

DR. OWEN HAD PUT FORWARD A PLAN FOR MR. NKOMO TO RETURN TO RHODESIA AND JOIN THE INTERNAL TALKS AND HAD ARGUED THAT ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA WOULD SUPPORT THE MOVE. THEY QUOTED MR. MOOSE AS SAYING.

IN THREE SESSION OF TALKS, THE US ENVOY, WHO HAD PLANNED TO GO ON FROM LONDON TO SOUTHERN AFRICA, SOUGHT TO DISSUADE DR. OWEN FROM EMBARKING ON THE PLAN BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT WORK, THE SOURCES SAID.

THEY SAID THE AMERICAN OFFICIAL ARGUED THAT MR. NKOMO WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE COMPROMISES INVOLVED IN RETURNING AND DR. DAUNDA WOULD NOT ACCEPT BRITISH ARGUMENTS THAT IT WAS IN HIS INTERESTS TO PERSUADE MR. NKOMO TO GO BACK AND TO ENDORSE THE INTERNAL PLAN.

MR. MOOSE THEN ABANDONED PLANS TO VISIT SOUTHERN AFRICA TO REVIVE WESTERN INVOLVEMENT IN PEACE MOVES BECAUSE OF THE DISPUTE, THE SOURCES ADDED.

THE US OBJECTIONS WERE APPARENTLY BASED ON THE IMPRACTICABILITY OF DR. OWEN'S PLAN, RATHER THAN ON ANY CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF SPLITTING THE PATRIOTIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRONT, THE SOURCES INDICATED.

THEY SAID MR. MOOSE LEFT LONDON FEELING HE HAD PERSUADED DR OWEN TO THINK AGAIN ABOUT HIS PLAN.

DURING THE LONDON TALKS, DR. OWEN RAISED THE IDEA OF SENDING AN SECRET ENVOY TO SOUTHERN AFRICA TO SOUND OUT DR. KAUNDA AND MR. NKOMO ABOUT THE PLAN, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES. THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN LUSAKA HAS DENIED THAT AN ENVOY OF THIS KIND WAS EVER SENT.

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS DIFFER SHARPLY FROM THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT, THEY GIVE THE 268,000 WHITE MINORITY FAR LESS POLITICAL POWER, ALLOW THE PATRIOTIC FRONT A CENTRAL ROLE AND MAKE PROVISION FOR A BLACK-DOMINATED ARMY.

BUT DURING HIS MEETINGS WITH MR. MOOSE, DR OWEN GAVE THE AMERICANS THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT PROVIDED MR. NKOMO'S INVOLVEMENT GAVE IT SOME INTERNATIONAL RESPECTABILITY, THE SOURCES SAID.

MR. NKOMO AND MR. MUGABE, WHO HELD AN EARLIER MEETING IN MAPUTO LAST WEEK, BOTH DISMISSED THE IDEA OF THEIR BEING ASSOCIATED WITH THE INTERNAL TALKS, WHICH THEY REGARD AS A BRITISH AND AMERICAN -INSPIRED SELL-OUT.

THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE MET AGAIN SO QUICKLY SUGGESTED THAT THEY WERE PLANNING MILITARY AND POLITICAL MOVES TO COUNTER THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT AND MAY ASK THE FRONTLINE STATES--ZAMBIA, TANZANIA, MOZAMBIQUE, BOTSWANA AND ANGOLA-- TO MEET TO ENDORSE THEIR STRATEGY, DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID.
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THE TWO MEN HAVE LONG SUSPECTED THAT DR. OWEN WAS NOT COMMITTED TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN AND NEWS OF THE RIFT WITH THE AMERICANS WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY HARDEN THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO TRUST DR. OWEN, ANALYSTS SAID.

MR. NKOMO, LEADER OF A GROWING SOVIET-ARMED AND CUBAN-ASSISTED ARMY OF UP TO 8,000 MEN, HAS RECENTLY INCLUDED

THE US FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS ALLEGATIONS OF WESTERN DUPLICITY OVER RHODESIA.

BOTH BRITIAN AND THE US ARE TRYING TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE INTERNAL DEAL AND THEIR OWN PLAN--A TASK THAT COULD BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT IF THE GUERRILLA WAR EXPANDS AND THE INTERNAL NEGOTIATORS CONTINUE ON THEIR OWN SEPARATE COURSE.

DESPITE MR. MOOSE'S PROTESTS AT DR. OWEN'S PLAN, DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE INDICATED THAT THE US WOULD FAVOR ARRANGEMENTS THAT BROUGHT ONE OR BOTH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS TOGETHER WITH THE INTERNAL BLACK NEGOTIATORS.

THE AIM WOULD BE TO AVERT BLACK-VERSUS-BLACK CIVIL WAR, WHICH WESTERN DIPLOMATS HERE VIEW AS A POSSIBILITY IF THE INTERNAL DEAL THROWS UP A BLACK GOVERNMENT EXCLUDING THE GUERRILLAS. CHRISTOPHER

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